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April 8, 2020

Welcome to the PSATS Morning News, our new email digest.

The Morning News eliminates a common complaint – too many emails – while still delivering up-to-date information on PSATS and local government issues. Members will receive ONE email from PSATS that includes latest news & COVID-19 updates, videos – look for TVN and the Question of the Week every Tuesday and Thursday – along with legislative and policy updates, grant and funding opportunities, and announcements about upcoming PSATS training.

Missed yesterday's PSATS Morning News? No problem! A [PSATS Morning News Library](#) is available online for your viewing pleasure!

We're excited about this new concept and want to hear what you think. Email comments and suggestions to morningnews@psats.org.

Latest News

[3rd PSATS Town Hall This Thursday, April 9, at Noon](#)

DON'T FORGET. PSATS is hosting its third web-based Town Hall for township officials on Thursday, April 9, at noon. [Click here](#) to register.

[Pennsylvania Primary Moved to June 2, Votes May Be Cast By Mail](#)

The Pennsylvania primary election was rescheduled from April 28 to June 2. Historic legislation authorizes all Pennsylvania voters to vote by mail without providing a reason.

This is an option for voters who prefer to cast their ballot from the comfort and safety of home. [Read full story.](#)

[PSP Releases Enforcement Totals for Business Closure, Stay-at-Home Order](#)

The Pennsylvania State Police released data on actions taken to date against non-life sustaining businesses that failed to comply with Gov. Tom Wolf's order closing their physical locations. [Read full story.](#)

[First Lady Frances Wolf: Volunteerism Remains Essential with Stay-at-Home Order](#)

The First Lady, Frances Wolf stated that several options exist for individuals seeking volunteer opportunities in their areas, as well as organizations and agencies in need of volunteers. [Read full story.](#)

[Facebook Announces Local Alerts Tool](#)

The Facebook Local Alerts Tool is now available for Facebook Pages for communities across the country responding to COVID-19. It is for primary government pages for local governments, including law enforcement and emergency responder pages. [Read full story.](#)

PFBC Opens Trout Season

Effective April 7, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission opened the 2020 trout season statewide. This was done without any big events to encourage social distancing. Anglers and boaters must abide by social distancing guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Gov. Tom Wolf's Stay-at-Home Order.

[Census Response Rate Update](#)

The 2020 Census is continuing even in the midst of a global pandemic. As of Tuesday, the self-response rate for Pennsylvania was 47.1% with roughly 42% completed online. As comparison, the final 2010 self-response rate was 70%. Townships can go online at 2020census.gov/en/response-rates to keep tabs on their local response rates. The map is updated daily around 3 p.m.

Legislation and Policy



Yesterday the Senate unanimously approved (50-0) SB841 addressing remote meetings, permit extensions and local options for property tax payment adjustments and sent it to the House. The House adjourned without acting on it. Both the Senate and House are now adjourned to the call of their respective chairs.

Learn

[Public Meeting Management 101/Boot Camp Virtual Classroom - 4/9/20](#)

In this session, Scott Coburn of PSATS will cover many different topics, including the basic requirements of the Sunshine Act, conducting executive sessions, ways in which townships can better manage public comment, handling disruptive attendees and much more.



[PFESI Web Series- Session 2- Effective Organizational Bylaws For Emergency Service Organizations - 4/9/20](#)

Bylaws are the foundational governance document for most all Pennsylvania Fire and EMS agency. Organizations must review and update the bylaws to effectively accomplish the mission. This session will highlight the important sections of bylaws, how to update bylaws, and current best practices.



For full list of webinars and classes please visit <https://learn.psats.org>



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